

Corporation for National and Community Service

NationalService.gov



April 13, 2018

Daniel Stephens
Executive Director
Campaign for Accountability
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Via email: dstephens@campaignforaccountability.org

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request # 2018-23

Dear Dan:

I'm writing to complete our response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you sent to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that we received on February 15, 2018. You asked for "(1) All records reflecting any guidance, memos, protocol, regulations, or advice – legal or otherwise – for assigning CNCS/AmeriCorps volunteers, members, resources, services, or funding to pregnancy resource centers, also known as crisis pregnancy centers; (2) All records reflecting any guidance, memos, protocol, regulations, or advice – legal or otherwise – for assigning CNCS/AmeriCorps volunteers, members, resources, services, or funding to any organization with a religious affiliation or mission; (3) All records reflecting communications (including applications, grant agreements, emails, email attachments, text messages, telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, or other materials) between CNCS, AmeriCorps, or anyone acting on behalf of CNCS or AmeriCorps, and the following organizations or anyone acting on behalf of the following organizations: (a) Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Centers, (b) Woman to Woman Pregnancy Resource Center, (c) Heartbeat International, (d) Care Net, (e) Birthright International [and] records describing the processing of this request, including records sufficient to identify search terms used and locations and custodians searched, and any tracking sheets used to track the processing of this request."

Your request is granted in part. As you know, I've already sent you records on April 4, 6, and 9. With this letter, I'm sending you the rest of the responsive records.

For item 1 of your request, the laws and regulations that govern or guide what grantees can do are available publicly, online. For policies, please see this link for our grant terms and conditions: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/financial-management/terms-conditions-and-certifications-assurances-cnsc-grants>. These speak to prohibitions on providing abortion services or referrals for such services. If you go to our public website, www.nationalservice.gov, and enter "prohibited activities" as a search terms, you'll find multiple records about this prohibition. However, our policies are silent on members serving in pregnancy crisis centers, pro or con.

For item 2 of your request, I'm sending you nine records that have some mention of religion or faith. Not all actually provide guidance, but they lend context. These records are excerpted pages from very long (200+ pages) grantee guides. One of the search records (

For item 3 of your request: We only found records for Women to Women Pregnancy Resource Center. No one found any records related to any of the centers except Women to Women.

The first three responses I sent all contained records related to Women to Women. This response has another five records – the VISTA Assignment Descriptions (VADs) for the VISTA project in Texas for which you already have records. These are released to you in full. I'm also sending you screen shots of the empty folders that were set up as a place for staff to put any responsive records for each of the other crisis pregnancy centers your request named.

I'm also releasing to you four records that document the search for records. In one of them, I've redacted email addresses and a phone number under FOIA exemption 6, which protects privacy.

CNCS spent about 26 hours searching for these records. However, I am granting your request for a fee waiver, and will not assess the approximately \$385 in fees that would otherwise have been due.

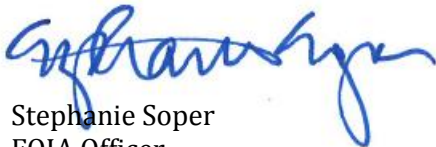
If you are dissatisfied with my action on this request, you may appeal by writing to Edith Shine, FOIA Appeals Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20525, or at eshine@cns.gov, within 90 days of your receipt of this letter. In the event you are dissatisfied with the results of any such appeal, judicial review is available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside, or in the District of Columbia, which is where the records you seek are located.

As an alternative to judicial review, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: (301) 837-1996
Facsimile: (301) 837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You may also contact CNCS's FOIA Public Liaison, Thomas Bryant, at tbryant@cns.gov, or you may feel free to contact me at (202) 606-6747 or at foia@cns.gov.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Soper
FOIA Officer
Law Office Manager

Attachments